

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINS, CI, IT, SP, CASC

SUBJECT: FORMER ITALIAN EMBASSY SANTIAGO ASYLEE GONZALEZ

REFERENCE: SANTIAGO 3644

1. ITALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON MINISTER ATTOLICO CALLED ON ARA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUSHNELL AND CHILE DESK OFFICER STEVEN ON MAY 23 TO EXPRESS FORMAL THANKS OF ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE OVER PAST TWO YEARS IN DIFFICULT ASYLUM CASE OF RAFAEL GONZALEZ VERDUGO, WHICH WAS RESOLVED WITH DEPARTURE OF GONZALEZ AND FAMILY FROM CHILE FOR SPAIN ON MAY 15 (REFTEL). HE REFLECTED HEARTY ITALIAN PLEASURE AT FINALLY "CLOSING THE FILE" ON GONZALEZ. DEPT OFFICERS IN TURN THANKED AND COMMENDED ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FOR HUMANITARIAN SERVICE IN TAKING
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CARE OF GONZALEZ AND HIS FAMILY FOR SO LONG UNDER SUCH DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. FOR MADRID: AS EMBASSY SANTIAGO POINTED OUT IN REFTEL, GONZALEZ WAS ASSOCIATED FOR YEARS WITH CHILEAN INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS. HE HAS CHOSEN TO GO TO SPAIN IN PREFERENCE TO EXERCISING HIS RIGHT TO RESUME PERMANENT

ALIEN RESIDENT STATUS IN THE U.S., POSSIBLY TO AVOID ANY LEGAL OR CONGRESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS UPON HIM SHOULD HE COME TO THE U.S. EMBASSY MADRID SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE GONZALEZ CASE MAY NOT BE CLOSED AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED. FOLLOWING IS FOR YOUR BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

3. AT THE TIME OF THE MILITARY COUP IN SEPTEMBER 1973 IN CHILE, A YOUNG AMERICAN NAMED CHARLES HORMAN WAS KILLED IN MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES. OUR EFFORTS, INCLUDING IN LENGTHY TAPE-RECORDED CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN GONZALEZ AND EMBASSY SANTIAGO OFFICERS, TO ESTABLISH THE FACTS HAVE FAILED. THE GOC STEADFASTLY DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HORMAN'S DEATH. DURING HIS LONG STAY IN THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO, GONZALEZ TALKED WITH U.S. REPORTERS AND TOLD THEM THAT HE HAD BEEN WITNESS, AS A MEMBER OF CHILEAN AIR FORCE SECURITY, TO A DECISION BY A CHILEAN OFFICIAL TO HAVE HORMAN KILLED. ALSO PRESENT AT THAT OCCASION, ACCORDING TO GONZALEZ, WAS A MAN HE TOOK TO BE A U.S. INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. GONZALEZ' STORY REGARDING CIRCUMSTANCES OF HORMAN DEATH COULD NOT BE CONFIRMED IN ANY OF ITS PARTICULARS.

4. IN EARLY 1978, THE HORMAN FAMILY FILED A SUIT AGAINST NINE STATE OFFICERS RANGING FROM THEN SECRETARY KISSINGER DOWN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND TO U.S. MILITARY AND CONSULAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERSONNEL ON DUTY IN SANTIAGO AT THE TIME OF HORMAN'S DEATH. THE SUIT CHARGES BOTH NEGLIGENCE AND CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY IN RELATION TO HORMAN'S DEATH. EVIDENCE CITED IN THE SUIT INCLUDES GONZALEZ' ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF WHAT HE ASSUMED WAS AN AMERICAN AT THE TIME IT WAS DECIDED TO KILL HORMAN.

5. THERE HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL PRESS AND CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THE HORMAN CASE, AND PARTICULARLY IF GONZALEZ WERE TO ENTER THE U.S. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE MIGHT BE CALLED BY A COURT OR CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE TO TESTIFY. AS THE FACT OF HIS DEPARTURE FROM SANTIAGO BECOMES MORE WIDELY KNOWN, SUCH INTEREST MAY BE ACCENTUATED.

6. BECAUSE OF THE IMPACT OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN GONZALEZ' INTERVIEWS UPON U.S. INTERESTS USG MIGHT ALSO CONSIDER SEEKING ANOTHER INTERVIEW WITH GONZALEZ NOW THAT HE IS FREE OF CONSTRAINTS EXISTING IN SANTIAGO. SEVERAL U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ARE CONCERNED IN THIS CASE AND ACCORDINGLY NO REPEAT NO APPROACH SHOULD BE MADE TO GONZALEZ UNLESS AND UNTIL THERE IS PRIOR CENTRAL CO-ORDINATION IN WASHINGTON. IF GONZALEZ WERE TO APPROACH

EMBASSY, HE SHOULD OF COURSE BE RECEIVED COURTEOUSLY, AND
ANY REQUESTS HE MIGHT MAKE OR ANY INFORMATION HE MIGHT
PROVIDE SHOULD BE REPORTED ASAP. VANCE

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